

PCBL *news*

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

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Upcoming Dates:

October 4-7, 2026:

Hilton Harrisburg

Pennsylvania Library Association

Annual Conference

Cheers to 125 Years!

Come visit us in the Exhibit Hall on:

Monday, October 5, 12:30 - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, October 6, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

November 18, 2026:

PaLA Headquarters, Mechanicsburg

PCBL Board Meeting, 10:30 am

March 6, 2027:

Library Friends & Trustees Institute

Virtual

A Message from the Vice President



Your Voice Matters: Advocating for Pennsylvania Libraries

Each year, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL) provides a grant to the Pennsylvania Library Association to support advocacy efforts on behalf of libraries across the Commonwealth. Funding for this grant comes from PCBL membership dues and generous donations from our members and supporters. PCBL works closely with the Association to raise awareness of library funding issues and ensure our state legislators understand the vital role libraries play in communities across Pennsylvania.

Every other year, the Pennsylvania Library Association holds its conference in Harrisburg, providing an important opportunity for members of the library community to connect with elected officials and their Harrisburg staff. This year, the conference's Legislative Day will be Wednesday, October 7. The day begins with a breakfast for conference attendees featuring Representative Malcolm Kenyatta of the 181st District. At 11:00 a.m., a press conference will be held in the Capitol Rotunda, along with exhibits highlighting the winning PA Forward awards. Following the press conference, members of the library community are encouraged to meet with the state senators and representatives who serve their districts. It's a busy—and important—day!

Because we at PCBL know how important the voices of Friends groups can be, we encourage all of our members to participate if they are able. *(continued, Page 2)*

(message from the Vice President continued)

Reach out to your library's administration to learn about plans for scheduling legislative meetings on October 7 and offer to be part of the conversation.

Our state representatives need to hear about your library and the important work your Friends group does to raise funds and support the programs, services, and resources that make such a difference in your community. Your personal stories and experiences can help legislators understand why strong, stable, library funding matters.

There are other ways our Friends groups can make their voices heard, too! Consider meeting with your elected officials in your home district to talk about the work Friends do and why stable statewide funding is critical to the future of Pennsylvania's libraries.

And, since this is an election year, consider reaching out to the candidates running for local office and asking how they intend to support libraries if elected. Share your library's story with them—and ask them to share their own library stories and experiences with you.

It's never too early to start building relationships and making sure our libraries have a strong voice in Harrisburg and in communities across Pennsylvania.

-Denise Sticha, PCBL Vice President

Become a PCBL Board Member

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL), our state's network of library friends working to achieve and maintain dedicated funding for public libraries and free access to library services for all, is seeking volunteers to join its dynamic board of directors. More information can be found at www.pcbllpa.org.

Board members serve for three years and are actively involved in organizational governance. The Board meets five times a year, frequently at the Pennsylvania Library Association headquarters in Mechanicsburg, PA, with a virtual option available.

Most needed: Academic Librarians, members with website experience (GoDaddy). The PCBL board needs various skills and library experience from library staff and Friends group members, so all are welcome to apply!

[Click here to apply](#). Questions? Email pcbllpa@gmail.com or call 800-870-3858.



NATIONAL Friends OF Libraries WEEK

OCTOBER 18-24, 2026

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

This October, libraries across the country will celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week, an opportunity to recognize the dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy, and enthusiasm to support their local libraries.

Coordinated by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association (ALA), National Friends of Libraries Week is now in its 21st year. The week encourages libraries and communities to celebrate their Friends groups, raise awareness of their contributions, and invite new members to get involved.

Your Library and/or Friends group can download the following resources.

- Logos/Graphics
- Social Media Graphics for Bluesky, Facebook, and Instagram
- Printable and Fillable Flyers
- Editable Proclamation, Letter to the Editor, and Press Release

SAVE THE DATE!

for the

Virtual Institute for Friends and Trustees

Sponsored by

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries

Pennsylvania Library Association

Saturday, March 6, 2027



**Pennsylvania
Citizens for
Better Libraries**



**Pennsylvania
Library
Association**

2026 PCBL Annual Award Winners



PCBL board member Deborah Dorshimer presented Kristin Reilly with her award at the July 12 meeting of the Friends of the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury

After reviewing a number of applications, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries named their 2026 Friend and Friends Group of the Year. Kristin Reilly of the Friends of the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury was named 2026 Friend of the Year, and the Friends of the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library was named 2026 Library Friends Group of the Year.

Kristin was nominated by fellow Friends member Pamela Kerr, whose nomination includes: "Kristin expanded the formerly week-long annual book sale to weekend book sales that ran from May through to November, allowing the Friends to bring in triple or even quadruple the amount from book sales as had been made previously. She has been in charge of membership and has co-chaired the fundraising committee for years. In addition, she has helped organize the Friends' participation in New Hope's two annual parades, helping to increase awareness of the library and its many programs as well as fundraising efforts."

Library Board President Thomas Topolski nominated the Friends of the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library for persevering through location changes and significantly increasing already generous fundraising support to enhance the library's capital campaign. The nomination includes, "While our Friends organization has always been critical to the success of the Simpson Library, in the past few years they have far exceeded any expectations in allowing us to improve our operations, expand our facilities, and establish a path for long-term sustainability."

PCBL board members Jairee Counterman and Sue Erdman presented the Friends of Joseph T. Simpson Library with their award at their August 3 meeting at the Simpson Library Learning & Book Sale Center in Mechanicsburg.

Susan Tracey, President of the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries and President of the Friends of Mt. Lebanon Public Library, comments, "Friends groups are great connections between the library and the community. Whether it is through advocacy, fundraising, or volunteering, being a Friend makes a difference."



Membership Fees & Application

We'd love to have you join us! To become a member, download the membership application and submit it to the address on the form.

Membership

- Benefactor: \$1,000
- Patron: \$500
- Champion: \$250
- Sponsor: \$125
- Sustaining: \$75
- Library: \$60
- Friends Group: \$50
- Personal: \$25

Affiliate Membership

- 501c3 Affiliate: \$150
- Affiliate membership requires approval from the PCBL Board after a series of paperwork is completed.



Contact Us:

pcblpa.org

pcblpa@gmail.com

800-870-3858

PCBL BOARD MEMBERS

President: Susan Tracey, President of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library Friends

Vice President: Denise S. Sticha, Retired Library Director

Treasurer: Brandt A. Ensor, System Administrator, Wayne Library Alliance

Secretary: Jairee Counterman, Advancement, Cumberland County Library System & Foundation

Patricia Coler, Friends of the Upper Darby Township Public Libraries

Deborah J. Dorshimer, Friends of the Upper Darby Township Public Libraries

Sue Erdman, Retired Library Director

Marcia Wilson, Friends of the Littlestown Library

PCBL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sue Miller, MSLS, Independent Librarian in reference and research